



MICHELLE BAASS  
DIRECTOR

State of California—Health and Human Services Agency  
**Department of Health Care Services**



GAVIN NEWSOM  
GOVERNOR

May 18, 2022

To: Tribal Chairpersons, Designees of Indian Health Programs,  
and Urban Indian Organizations

Subject: Notice of Proposed Change to the Medi-Cal Program

The purpose of this letter is to provide information regarding a proposed change to the Department of Health Care Services' (DHCS) Medi-Cal Program that will be submitted to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). DHCS is forwarding this information for your review and comment.

DHCS is required to seek advice from designees of Indian Health Programs and Urban Indian Organizations on Medi-Cal matters having a direct effect on Indians, Indian Health Programs or Urban Indian Organizations per the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). DHCS must solicit the advice of designees prior to submission to CMS of any State Plan Amendment (SPA), waiver requests or modifications, or proposals for demonstration projects in the Medi-Cal program.

Please see the enclosed summary for a detailed description of this DHCS proposal.

**QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS**

Indian Health Programs and Urban Indian Organizations may also submit written comments or questions concerning this proposal within 30 days from the receipt of notice. Comments may be sent by email to [Angeli.Lee@dhcs.ca.gov](mailto:Angeli.Lee@dhcs.ca.gov) or by mail to the address below:

**Contact Information**

Department of Health Care Services  
Director's Office  
ATTN: Angeli Lee  
MS 0000  
P.O. Box 997413  
Sacramento, CA 95899-7413

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In addition to this notice, DHCS plans to cover this SPA in the next quarterly Medi-Cal Indian Health webinar. Please note that Indian Health Programs and Urban Indian Organizations may request a consultation on this proposal at any time as needed.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by

Andrea Zubiate, Acting Chief  
Office of Tribal Affairs  
Department of Health Care Services

Enclosure



**Department of Health Care Services  
Tribal and Designees of Indian Health Programs Notice**

**PURPOSE**

To seek the necessary federal approvals to expand the list of providers who can prescribe physical therapy.

**BACKGROUND**

DHCS proposes to revise the State Plan to allow physicians and other licensed practitioners to prescribe physical therapy within their scope of practice. Currently, the State Plan authorizes only physicians, podiatrists, and dentists to prescribe physical therapy.

**SUMMARY OF PROPOSED CHANGES**

DHCS is seeking to expand the list of providers who can prescribe physical therapy to include physicians and other licensed practitioners of the healing arts within their scope of practice under state law, as authorized by federal regulations.<sup>1</sup> Currently, the State Plan authorizes only physicians, podiatrists, and dentists to prescribe physical therapy, although other licensed providers may prescribe physical therapy within their scope of practice during the COVID-19 public health emergency.

The expanded list of providers who can prescribe physical therapy would include providers in both the fee-for-service and managed care delivery systems.

The proposed effective date for the State Plan Amendment (SPA) 22-0044 is July 1, 2022. SPA 22-0044 is subject to approval by the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

**IMPACT TO TRIBAL HEALTH PROGRAMS**

To the extent that Tribal Health Programs provide physical therapy services, an increase in beneficiaries accessing services is expected.

**IMPACT TO FEDERALLY QUALIFIED HEALTH CENTERS (FQHCs)**

To the extent that FQHCs provide physical therapy services, an increase in beneficiaries accessing services is expected.

**IMPACT TO INDIAN MEDI-CAL BENEFICIARIES**

Medi-Cal beneficiaries may have increased access to physical therapy, which is expected to improve health outcomes.

**RESPONSE DATE**

Indian Health Programs and Urban Indian Organizations may submit written comments or questions concerning this proposal within 30 days from the receipt of notice. Comments may be sent by email to [Angeli.Lee@dhcs.ca.gov](mailto:Angeli.Lee@dhcs.ca.gov) or by mail to the address below:

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<sup>1</sup> [Section 440.110\(a\) of Title 42 of the Code of Federal Regulations](#)